

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/697,868

Applicant(s)

BARNWELL, JAMES W.

Examiner

Minh-Chau T. Pham

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

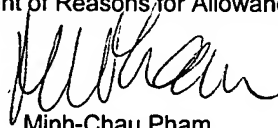
1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed on 2/15/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 6-9, 12-15 and 18-20 (renumbered as 1-14 respectively).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Minh-Chau Pham
Patent Examiner
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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 12-15 and 18-20 allowed.

The closest relevant art is Stuard (2,036,106) wherein Stuard teaches a separator (1) for removing liquids from a pressurized gaseous stream (page 1, left col., lines 8-17) comprising a filter element (see material inside chamber F) disposed in a body defining an inner chamber (F), a housing having the body disposed in an outer chamber (C), a drain device (23) having an orifice in the inner chamber (8) and the outer chamber (23) for draining the liquids from both the inner chamber and the outer chamber from the filter (page 1, left col., line 42 through right col., line 6). Stuard further teaches the drain device comprising a spring loaded valve (37, page 1, right col., line 42 through page 2, left col., line 38) to open or shut the orifice of the chambers due to the pressure variations (page 2, right col., lines 41 through page 3, left col., line 7). Stuard further teaches a method of filtering liquids from a pressurized gaseous stream comprising the steps of providing a filter element disposed in the inner chamber (F), housing the filter element in a housing and disposed therein an outer chamber (1)), draining liquids from both the inner and outer chambers (C, E) from the filter through a drain device (23) through valves (37, 25) (see details of Fig.1).

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 12-15 and 18-20 of this instant patent application differ from the disclosure of Stuard in that the drain device has an orifice in both the inner and outer chambers for draining the liquids from both chambers from the filter via pressure.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh-Chau T. Pham whose telephone number is (571)

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272-1163. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri 7:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Minh-Chau Pham
Patent Examiner
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March 15, 2007

DUANE SMITH
PRIMARY EXAMINER


3-16-07